

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 609

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to designate February 7-14, 2012 as “Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, over one million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, every year 40,000 babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionately small amount of funding is available for congenital heart defect research and support; and

WHEREAS, “Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week” provides an opportunity for families, whose lives have been affected, to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of “Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week” will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we proclaim February 7-14, 2012 to be "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" and encourage all citizens to increase awareness, education, and services for congenital heart defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.